

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3055

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide expanded resources, technical assistance, reasonable accountability, and professional development to eligible entities implementing Even Start programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2007

Mr. YARMUTH (for himself and Mr. PLATTS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide expanded resources, technical assistance, reasonable accountability, and professional development to eligible entities implementing Even Start programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Families Conquering
5 Literacy Together Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. WILLIAM F. GOODLING EVEN START FAMILY LIT-**
2 **ERACY PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—Section 1231 (20
4 U.S.C. 6381) is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by
6 striking “to help break the cycle of poverty and illit-
7 eracy by” and inserting “to provide centered edu-
8 cational programs to help break the cycle of poverty
9 and illiteracy and to lay the foundation for strong
10 parental involvement in children’s education by”;
11 and

12 (2) in paragraph (2)—

13 (A) by amending subparagraph (A) to read
14 as follows:

15 “(A) be implemented through cooperative
16 programs that, to the extent possible, coordi-
17 nate high quality effective educational services
18 to create integrated and supportive family-fo-
19 cused education programs;”;

20 (B) in subparagraph (B) by inserting after
21 “promote” the following: “language and literacy
22 development and”;

23 (C) by amending subparagraph (D) to read
24 as follows:

25 “(D) be based on scientifically based re-
26 search on children’s language and literacy de-

1 velopment and on the most rigorous research
2 available for adults that addresses the preven-
3 tion and remediation of reading difficulties in
4 children and adults to the extent such research
5 is available.”.

6 (b) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—Section 1232 (20
7 U.S.C. 6381a) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking
10 “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$150,000,000”;
11 and

12 (B) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
13 ing the following:

14 “(2) SPECIAL RULE.—After the date of the en-
15 actment of the Families Conquering Literacy To-
16 gether Act of 2007, the Secretary shall award a
17 grant, on a competitive basis, of sufficient size and
18 for a period of sufficient duration to demonstrate in-
19 novative family literacy programs for incarcerated
20 parents and their Even Start eligible children. The
21 Secretary shall ensure that the results are dissemi-
22 nated by NIFL and are capable of replication.”; and

23 (C) in paragraph (3)—

1 (i) by striking “Bureau of Indian Af-
2 fairs” and inserting “Bureau of Indian
3 Education”;

4 (ii) by striking “and to encourage the
5 dissemination of information” and insert-
6 ing “and shall ensure that information”;
7 and

8 (iii) by striking the period at the end
9 and inserting “is disseminated through
10 NIFL or other appropriate means. The
11 Secretary shall report to Congress on how
12 the Department is carrying out the coordi-
13 nation required by this paragraph.”;

14 (2) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking subpara-
16 graphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

17 “(A) establishing the comprehensive per-
18 formance accountability system required by sec-
19 tion 1240 to assess the effectiveness of the pro-
20 gram in achieving continuous improvement of
21 Even Start family literacy activities carried out
22 under this subpart; and

23 “(B) providing, through grants or con-
24 tracts with eligible organizations, technical as-
25 sistance and training that supports continuous

1 program improvement to ensure positive out-
2 comes for participants.”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “for such
4 year” and all that follows through the period at
5 the end and inserting “for such year exceeds
6 \$175,000,000, the Secretary shall reserve
7 \$2,000,000 to carry out research under section
8 1241 into topics set forth by the independent
9 research panel.”;

10 (3) by striking subsection (c) and redesignating
11 subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (c) and (d),
12 respectively;

13 (4) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “(a), (b),
15 or (c),” and inserting “(a) or (b),”; and

16 (B) in paragraph (3)—

17 (i) by striking “\$250,000” and insert-
18 ing “\$300,000”; and

19 (ii) by striking “(a), (b), or (c)” and
20 inserting “(a) or (b)”; and

21 (5) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), in
22 paragraph (4), by inserting after “section 1208” the
23 following: “for children and the most rigorous re-
24 search available for adults”.

1 (c) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PROGRAMS.—Sec-
2 tion 1233 (20 U.S.C. 6381b) is amended—

3 (1) in subsection (a)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
5 by inserting after “6 percent” the following:
6 “(or, for a fiscal year in which the amount ap-
7 propriated under section 1002(b)(3) is
8 \$175,000,000 or more, 7 percent)”; and

9 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “replica-
10 tion” and inserting “professional development”;
11 and

12 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

14 (i) by striking “subparagraphs (B)
15 and (C)” and inserting “subparagraph
16 (B)”; and

17 (ii) by striking “\$75,000” and insert-
18 ing “\$100,000”;

19 (B) by striking subparagraph (B) and re-
20 designating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph
21 (B); and

22 (C) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesign-
23 ated)—

1 (i) by striking “\$75,000” both places
2 such term appears and inserting
3 “\$100,000”; and

4 (ii) by striking “subparagraphs (A)
5 and (B)” and inserting “subparagraph
6 (A)”.

7 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—Section 1234 (20 U.S.C.
8 6381c) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

11 (i) in clause (iv), by adding “and” at
12 the end; and

13 (ii) by striking clauses (v) and (vi)
14 and inserting the following:

15 “(v) 50 percent in the fifth and subse-
16 quent years.”; and

17 (B) by striking paragraph (3); and

18 (2) in subsection (c), by amending paragraph
19 (3) to read as follows:

20 “(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In carrying out
21 paragraph (1), a State educational agency may use
22 the funds referred to in that paragraph to provide
23 technical assistance on program improvement and on
24 high quality local program collaborations.”.

1 (e) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 1235 (20 U.S.C.
2 6381d) is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after “in
4 need of” the following: “family literacy”;

5 (2) by striking paragraphs (2) through (4) and
6 inserting the following:

7 “(2) include screening of families (including
8 parents and children) to determine their readiness to
9 enable those parents and children to participate fully
10 in the instruction provided under this subpart, to re-
11 main in the program a sufficient time to meet their
12 program goals and to attend regularly. Such screen-
13 ing shall include assessment, referral to development
14 support services and related services, including coun-
15 seling, if appropriate and necessary;

16 “(3) be designed to accommodate the partici-
17 pants’ work schedule and other responsibilities, such
18 as—

19 “(A) the provision of support services, such
20 as child care and transportation. Such services
21 shall be available only when those services are
22 unavailable from other sources, necessary for
23 participation in the family literacy activities as-
24 sisted under this subpart; and

1 “(B) scheduling and locating of services to
2 allow joint participation by parents and chil-
3 dren;

4 “(4) include high-quality, intensive, and inte-
5 grated instructional programs that operate on a
6 year-round basis to promote adult literacy, to em-
7 power parents to support the educational growth of
8 their children, to provide developmentally and lin-
9 guistically appropriate early childhood educational
10 services that prepare children for success in regular
11 school programs and include the use of scientifically-
12 based reading research for children and the most
13 rigorous research available for adults;”;

14 (3) in paragraph (5)—

15 (A) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as
16 subparagraph (C);

17 (B) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
18 serting the following:

19 “(A) the individual responsible for admin-
20 istration of family literacy services under this
21 subpart has received training in the operation
22 of a family literacy program and meets min-
23 imum qualifications of instructional staff;

24 “(B) paraprofessionals who provide sup-
25 port for academic instruction have a secondary

1 school diploma or its recognized equivalent;
2 and”; and

3 (C) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesign-
4 nated), in the matter preceding clause (i), by
5 striking “all new” and inserting “all”;

6 (4) by amending paragraph (7) to read as fol-
7 lows:

8 “(7) provide and monitor integrated instruction
9 to participating parents and children in the home;”;

10 (5) by striking paragraphs (8), (10), (11), (12),
11 and (13);

12 (6) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
13 graph (8) and, in subparagraph (A) of that para-
14 graph, by striking “other programs” and inserting
15 “other relevant programs”;

16 (7) by redesignating paragraph (14) as para-
17 graph (9) and, in that paragraph, by striking “and”
18 at the end;

19 (8) by redesignating paragraph (15) as para-
20 graph (10) and, in that paragraph, by striking the
21 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

22 (9) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(11) ensure that programs will provide inter-
24 active literacy activities for parents and their chil-

1 dren at such times when parents are unable to at-
2 tend classes at the same time as their children.”.

3 (f) ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS.—Section 1236(a)(2)
4 (20 U.S.C. 6381e(a)(2)) is amended by striking “age 7,
5 of any individual” and inserting “age 7 (with an emphasis
6 of serving ages birth through age 5), of an individual”.

7 (g) APPLICATIONS.—Section 1237 (20 U.S.C. 6381f)
8 is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1) by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (B) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
13 follows:

14 “(2) to provide access to the professional devel-
15 opment and technical assistance needed to prepare
16 program administrators and staff to implement and
17 manage the program effectively and the skills nec-
18 essary to provide high quality services, which may be
19 offered by eligible organizations; and”;

20 (C) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(3) to provide linguistically and culturally ap-
22 propriate services to the eligible population to be
23 served by an eligible organization.”; and

24 (2) in subsection (c)—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
2 “and how those strategies” and all that
3 follows through the semicolon at the end
4 and inserting “and how those objectives
5 are consistent with and support the
6 achievement of the quality indicators set
7 forth in section 1240;”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (E)—

9 (I) in clause (ii)—

10 (aa) by striking “to provide
11 services” and inserting “to pro-
12 vide English literacy and lan-
13 guage acquisition program serv-
14 ices”; and

15 (bb) by striking “and” at
16 the end;

17 (II) in clause (iii) by adding
18 “and” at the end; and

19 (III) by adding at the end the
20 following:

21 “(iv) to ensure that the programs will
22 provide developmentally, linguistically, and
23 culturally appropriate activities and serv-
24 ices for the eligible families most in need
25 of services under this subpart;”;

1 (iii) in subparagraph (F)—

2 (I) by striking “other programs”
3 and inserting “other relevant pro-
4 grams”; and

5 (II) by striking “and” at the end;

6 (iv) in subparagraph (G)—

7 (I) by inserting after “program
8 objectives” the following: “and quality
9 indicators”; and

10 (II) by striking the period at the
11 end and inserting “; and”; and

12 (v) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(H) a description of how the plan pro-
14 vides for access to professional development and
15 how information gained through such profes-
16 sional development is implemented to improve
17 the program’s ability to provide high quality
18 services and enhance participants’ learning.”;
19 and

20 (B) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting be-
21 fore the period at the end the following: “and
22 submitted to the State for approval”.

23 (h) AWARD OF SUBGRANTS.—Section 1238 (20
24 U.S.C. 6381g) is amended—

25 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1)—

2 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by insert-
3 ing before the semicolon at the end the fol-
4 lowing: “and meeting the Indicators of
5 Program Quality under section 1240”; and

6 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by striking
7 “the greatest possible cooperation and co-
8 ordination between a variety of relevant
9 service providers” and inserting “coopera-
10 tion and coordination among a variety of
11 relevant high quality service providers”;
12 and

13 (B) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
15 graph (A), by inserting after “A review
16 panel” the following: “shall be independent
17 and”; and

18 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(F) An individual with expertise in bilin-
21 gual education or teaching English as a second
22 language.”; and

23 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “4 years”
24 and inserting “6 years”.

1 (i) EVALUATION.—Section 1239 (20 U.S.C. 6381h)
2 is amended to read as follows:

3 **“SEC. 1239. PROGRAM MONITORING AND REPORTS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—From funds reserved under sec-
5 tion 1232(b)(1), the Secretary shall provide for an annual
6 report to Congress on programs assisted under this sub-
7 part based upon reports from grantees.

8 “(b) REPORTS BY GRANTEES.—Each State edu-
9 cational agency that receives a grant under this subpart,
10 and each migrant or tribal grantee that receives a grant
11 under this subpart, shall annually prepare and submit to
12 the Secretary a report on the progress of the State edu-
13 cational agency or migrant or tribal grantee in achieving
14 program quality, including information on the levels of
15 performance achieved with respect to the core indicators
16 of performance.

17 “(c) INFORMATION DISSEMINATION.—The Sec-
18 retary—

19 “(1) shall make the information contained in
20 the reports available to the general public through
21 publication and other appropriate methods;

22 “(2) shall provide the authorizing and appro-
23 priating committees that have jurisdiction over early
24 childhood, elementary and secondary education, and
25 adult education copies of such reports to determine

1 the performance and effectiveness of programs under
2 this subpart; and

3 “(3) shall provide State educational agencies
4 and eligible entities receiving a subgrant under this
5 subpart, directly or through a grant or contract with
6 an organization with experience in the development
7 and operation of successful family literacy services,
8 technical assistance to ensure that local evaluations
9 undertaken under section 1235(10) provide accurate
10 information on the effectiveness of programs as-
11 sisted under this subpart.”.

12 (j) INDICATORS OF PROGRAM QUALITY.—Section
13 1240 (20 U.S.C. 6381i) is amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 1240. INDICATORS OF PROGRAM QUALITY.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State educational agency
16 receiving funds under this subpart shall use the indicators
17 of program quality to monitor, evaluate, and improve
18 those programs within the State. The indicators shall con-
19 sist of—

20 “(1) increased access of parents to literacy
21 services that help parents promote emergent literacy
22 in their children and enhance language and literacy
23 development in the home;

24 “(2) providing Even Start instruction and serv-
25 ices that are developmentally, culturally, and linguis-

1 tically appropriate for the ages and populations
2 served;

3 “(3) using research and evidence based screen-
4 ing, assessments, and curricula for instructional im-
5 provements, and referrals as needed to support lan-
6 guage and literacy development;

7 “(4) improving type, duration, mix, and inten-
8 sity of intergenerational literacy services, including
9 scheduling and locating of services to promote
10 intergenerational participation in Even Start;

11 “(5) improving the quality, type, and intensity
12 of professional development of Even Start staff, in-
13 cluding teachers, teacher aides, and program admin-
14 istrators, including—

15 “(A) professional development of Even
16 Start staff in child development, including lan-
17 guage and literacy and its connection to other
18 domains of child development; and

19 “(B) professional development of Even
20 Start staff in adult learning theory, basic skills,
21 and English language skills and application in
22 multiple contexts; and

23 “(6) improving the quality of collaboration to
24 enhance program implementation.”.

1 (k) RESEARCH.—Section 1241 (20 U.S.C. 6381j) is
 2 amended to read as follows:

3 **“SEC. 1241. RESEARCH.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to provide rigorous re-
 5 search utilizing appropriate, scientifically-based research
 6 standards, the Secretary shall carry out, through grant or
 7 contract, research into the components of successful fam-
 8 ily literacy services to inform the field and improve prac-
 9 tice and program quality. The agenda for such research
 10 shall be determined by an independent panel (in this sec-
 11 tion referred to as the ‘Research Panel’).

12 **“(b) COMPOSITION OF RESEARCH PANEL.—**

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Research Panel shall
 14 be composed of 9 members appointed as follows:

15 “(A) 3 members shall be appointed by the
 16 President from among nominations received
 17 from the Secretary, of whom—

18 “(i) 1 shall be from among individuals
 19 who are Even Start coordinators;

20 “(ii) 1 shall be from among individ-
 21 uals who are practitioners from a migrant
 22 Even Start program; and

23 “(iii) 1 shall be from among individ-
 24 uals who are practitioners from a tribal
 25 Even Start program.

1 “(B) 3 members shall be appointed by the
2 President from among nominations received
3 from the majority leader of the Senate, of
4 whom—

5 “(i) 1 shall be from among individuals
6 who are Even Start practitioners;

7 “(ii) 1 shall be from among individ-
8 uals who are researchers and experts in
9 family literacy; and

10 “(iii) 1 shall be from among individ-
11 uals who are experts in early childhood
12 language and literacy development.

13 “(C) 3 members shall be appointed by the
14 President from among nominations received
15 from the Speaker of the House of Representa-
16 tives, of whom—

17 “(i) 1 shall be from among individuals
18 who are experts in adult literacy develop-
19 ment;

20 “(ii) 1 shall be from among individ-
21 uals who are experts in early childhood and
22 adult literacy services for non-English lan-
23 guage speaking children and adults; and

24 “(iii) 1 shall be from among individ-
25 uals who are representatives from other

1 national organizations involved in family
2 literacy.

3 “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making nomina-
4 tions under paragraph (1), the President, Speaker,
5 and Majority Leader shall take into consideration
6 nominations received from organizations that have
7 expertise in family literacy, young child literacy, and
8 adult literacy.

9 “(c) APPOINTMENT RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS.—

10 “(1) REPRESENTATION.—To the extent fea-
11 sible, the membership of the Research Panel shall be
12 geographically representative of the United States
13 and reflect the diversity of the United States with
14 regard to race, native language, ethnicity, gender,
15 and disability characteristics.

16 “(2) DIVISION BETWEEN POLITICAL PARTIES.—
17 To the extent feasible, the individuals nominated
18 and the individuals appointed to the Research Panel
19 shall be equally divided between the 2 major political
20 parties.

21 “(d) TERMS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Members shall be ap-
23 pointed for 3-year terms, with no member serving
24 more than 2 consecutive terms.

25 “(2) STAGGERING.—

1 “(A) The Research Panel shall establish
2 initial terms for members of 1, 2, or 3 years in
3 order to establish a rotation in which one-third
4 of the members are selected each year.

5 “(B) The Secretary shall determine, pursu-
6 ant to a lottery, which members serve terms of
7 1, 2, or 3 years under subparagraph (A).

8 “(e) DATE OF APPOINTMENT.—The initial members
9 shall be appointed not later than 120 days after the date
10 of the enactment of this section.

11 “(f) INITIATION.—The Research Panel shall begin to
12 carry out the duties of the Research Panel under this sec-
13 tion when all 12 members have been appointed.

14 “(g) RETENTION.—In order to retain an appointment
15 to the Research Panel, a member shall attend at least two-
16 thirds of the scheduled meetings of the Research Panel
17 in any given year.

18 “(h) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Research Panel
19 shall not affect the powers of the Research Panel, but shall
20 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

21 “(i) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Research
22 Panel shall not receive compensation from the federal gov-
23 ernment for service on the Research Panel.

24 “(j) CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Research
2 Panel shall disclose any and all conflicts of interest,
3 including serving on other public or private councils
4 or panels, research projects, or having a financial in-
5 terest in any materials or consultations relating to
6 family literacy, child literacy, and adult literacy.

7 “(2) SPECIAL RULES.—

8 “(A) Notwithstanding any other provision
9 of law, before an individual is appointed to the
10 Research Panel, the official responsible for
11 issuing waivers under section 208(b)(3) of title
12 18, United States Code, shall submit to the
13 Committee on Education and Labor of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee
15 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
16 the Senate a copy of the waiver required by
17 that section. Information contained in the waiv-
18 er that would not otherwise be publicly available
19 under section 208(d)(1) of title 18, United
20 States Code, shall be provided to such commit-
21 tees, but shall be noted as nonpublic informa-
22 tion.

23 “(B) The Research Panel shall develop,
24 consistent with the provisions of and regula-
25 tions promulgated pursuant to section

1 208(b)(3) of title 18, United States Code, and
2 submit to the Committee on Education and
3 Labor of the House of Representatives and the
4 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
5 Pensions of the Senate procedures governing
6 the participation of members in any matter that
7 affects the financial interests of the members or
8 of a person or entity whose interests are im-
9 puted to the member.

10 “(k) TRAVEL.—Each member of the Research Panel
11 may be allowed appropriate and reasonable travel ex-
12 penses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as au-
13 thorized by section 5703 of title 5, United States Code,
14 for each day the member is engaged in the performance
15 of duties away from the home or regular place of business
16 of the member.

17 “(l) OFFICERS.—The members of the Research Panel
18 shall select officers from among its members. The officers
19 of the Research Panel shall serve for one-year terms.

20 “(m) MEETINGS.—Meetings of the Research Panel
21 shall be open to the public, and shall be given appropriate
22 notice in the Federal Register.

23 “(n) DISSEMINATION.—The National Institute for
24 Literacy shall disseminate, pursuant to section 1207, the
25 results of research conducted under this section to those

1 receiving funds for Even Start, the Adult Education and
 2 Family Literacy Act, and other Federally funded pro-
 3 grams carrying out family literacy activities.

4 “(o) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within 6 months after
 5 the completion of such research, a report on the research
 6 and dissemination to appropriate providers shall be sub-
 7 mitted to the Secretary of Education to the Committee
 8 on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives
 9 and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
 10 Pensions of the Senate.”.

11 (l) CONSTRUCTION; LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION.—

12 (1) CONSTRUCTION.—Section 1242 (20 U.S.C.
 13 6381k) is redesignated as section 1243.

14 (2) LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION.—Subpart 3
 15 of part B of title I is amended by inserting after sec-
 16 tion 1241 the following:

17 **“SEC. 1242. LONGITUDINAL EVALUATION.**

18 “(a) NATIONAL WILLIAM F. GOODLING EVEN START
 19 EVALUATION.—From funds reserved under section 1232
 20 (b)(1), the Secretary shall provide for a longitudinal eval-
 21 uation of the Even Start program.

22 “(b) EXPERT PANEL.—

23 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Secretary shall ap-
 24 point an independent panel consisting of experts in
 25 research on delivering services in multiple types of

1 program settings; family literacy; parent involvement
2 in children's education; and adult and early child-
3 hood education, including experts in second language
4 acquisition for young children and adults, adults'
5 and young children's language and literacy develop-
6 ment, and its relationship to children's development
7 in cognitive, social, and emotional and other do-
8 mains; and experts in professional development for
9 individuals working with young children and adults.

10 “(2) DUTIES.—The duties of the independent
11 panel shall be—

12 “(A) to review, and make recommendations
13 on, the design and plan for the research
14 (whether conducted as a single assessment or as
15 a series of assessments described in subsection
16 (c)(2)), within 6 months after the date of the
17 enactment of this section;

18 “(B) to update and advise the Secretary
19 regarding the progress of the research; and

20 “(C) to comment, if the panel so desires,
21 on the interim and final research reports sub-
22 mitted under paragraphs (8) and (9) of sub-
23 section (c).

24 “(c) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

1 “(1) INDEPENDENT RESEARCH.—After review-
2 ing the recommendations of the expert panel, the
3 Secretary shall make a grant to, or enter into a con-
4 tract or cooperative agreement with, an organization
5 to conduct independent research that provides a na-
6 tional analysis of the impact of Even Start pro-
7 grams. The Secretary shall ensure that the organiza-
8 tion shall have expertise in family literacy program
9 operation and research, adult literacy education,
10 family literacy, second language acquisition for
11 young children and adults, and early childhood edu-
12 cation.

13 “(2) DESIGNS AND TECHNIQUES.—The Sec-
14 retary shall ensure that the independent research
15 under paragraph (1) uses rigorous methodological
16 designs and techniques (based on the recommenda-
17 tions of the expert panel) appropriate for longitu-
18 dinal studies, including experimental or quasi-experi-
19 mental designs, selecting an appropriate sample of
20 Even Start programs and participants, and using
21 nationally recognized standardized measures, as ap-
22 propriate. The Secretary may provide that the re-
23 search shall be conducted as a single comprehensive
24 assessment or as a group of coordinated assessments
25 designed to provide, when taken together, a national

1 analysis of the impact of Even Start programs. Such
2 design must include evaluation of how the Even
3 Start programs are being implemented in the range
4 of eligible settings, including the quantity of services
5 for children and families, different program ap-
6 proaches and community contexts for delivery and
7 impact of the services, how different implementation
8 settings impact services, the characteristics of chil-
9 dren and families, and the impact on parenting, par-
10 ent-child relationships, parental involvement in
11 schools, and family literacy activities in the home.

12 “(3) PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall ensure
13 that the research focuses on Even Start programs
14 that operate in the 50 States, the Commonwealth of
15 Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, or the Terri-
16 tories and that do not specifically target or omit spe-
17 cial populations.

18 “(4) ANALYSIS.—The Secretary shall ensure
19 that the organization conducting the research—

20 “(A) determines if, overall, the Even Start
21 programs have impacts consistent with their
22 primary goal of providing family-centered edu-
23 cational programs to help break the cycle of
24 poverty and illiteracy and laying the foundation

1 for strong parental involvement in children’s
2 education;

3 “(B) considers whether Even Start pro-
4 grams—

5 “(i) provide family literacy services to
6 adults and children not otherwise available
7 or accessible to such children, or that sup-
8 plement child development or adult edu-
9 cation services provided by other programs;

10 “(ii) strengthen families as the pri-
11 mary nurturers of their children;

12 “(iii) strengthen parents’ knowledge
13 and skills that support parent-child rela-
14 tionships, parental involvement in schools,
15 and family literacy activities in the home;

16 “(iv) strengthen families as the pri-
17 mary teachers of their children and part-
18 ners in their education;

19 “(v) improve adults basic skill levels
20 in reading, writing, speaking the English
21 language and basic math; and

22 “(vi) increase adults entry into em-
23 ployment and retention in employment;

24 “(C) examines—

1 “(i) the impact of Even Start pro-
2 grams on increasing access for adults and
3 children to such services as educational,
4 health, nutritional services, and linking
5 families to needed community services;

6 “(ii) how receipt of services described
7 in section 1235 enriches the lives of chil-
8 dren and families participating in Even
9 Start programs; and

10 “(iii) how differences in the type,
11 length, mix and intensity of services affect
12 the desired program goals;

13 “(D) examines the impact of Even Start
14 programs—

15 “(i) on children at the end of kinder-
16 garten and at the end of first grade by ex-
17 amining a variety of factors, including edu-
18 cational achievement, referrals for special
19 education or remedial course work, and ab-
20 senteeism;

21 “(ii) on adults by examining various
22 factors including demonstrated improve-
23 ments in English language acquisition; lit-
24 eracy skills levels in reading and writing,
25 including in the home language, numeracy,

1 problem solving, and other literacy skills;
2 placement in, retention in, or completion of
3 postsecondary education, training, unsub-
4 sidized employment or career advancement,
5 receipt of a secondary school diploma or its
6 recognized equivalent; and

7 “(iii) on parents by examining various
8 factors, including parent-school commu-
9 nication, monitoring the progress and rein-
10 forcing learning of their children in school,
11 participating in school connected activities,
12 and participating in interactive literacy ac-
13 tivities with their child;

14 “(E) makes use of random selection from
15 all Even Start programs for inclusion in the re-
16 search; and

17 “(F) includes comparisons of individuals
18 who participate in Even Start programs with
19 comparison or control groups composed of—

20 “(i) individuals who participate in
21 other early childhood programs;

22 “(ii) individuals who do not partici-
23 pate in other early childhood programs;

24 “(iii) individuals who participate in
25 other adult education programs;

1 “(iv) individuals who do not partici-
2 pate in other adult education programs;
3 and

4 “(v) individuals who do/not participate
5 in language and literacy focused parent
6 education programs.

7 “(5) CONSIDERATION OF SOURCES OF VARI-
8 ATION.—In designing the research, the Secretary
9 shall, to the extent practicable, consider addressing
10 possible sources of variation in impact of Even Start
11 programs, including variations in impact related to
12 such factors such as—

13 “(A) Even Start program operations, in-
14 cluding geographic location and population
15 served disaggregated by race and ethnicity;

16 “(B) Even Start program quality, includ-
17 ing state assessment of Indicators of Program
18 Quality;

19 “(C) the quantity of services, including
20 length of time, a family attends an Even Start
21 program;

22 “(D) the age of the child on entering and
23 leaving the Even Start program;

24 “(E) the primary language of the child and
25 adults participating in the Even Start program;

1 “(F) parents and children of migratory
2 families, Indian tribes, or tribal organizations;

3 “(G) the type of organization providing
4 services for the Even Start program, including
5 programs pertaining to Indian tribes and tribal
6 organizations; and

7 “(H) the type of organization providing
8 services for the Even Start program, including
9 programs pertaining to Indian tribes and tribal
10 organizations.

11 “(6) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
12 ‘impact’, when used with respect to an Even Start
13 program, means a difference in an outcome for a
14 participant in the program that would not have oc-
15 curred without the participation in the program.

16 “(7) SPECIAL RULE.—The use of assessment
17 data on any assessment authorized under this sub-
18 part by an agent or agents of the Federal Govern-
19 ment to provide rewards or sanctions for individual
20 parents, children, or teachers is prohibited. The Sec-
21 retary shall not use the results of adult or child as-
22 sessment outcomes as the sole or primary method
23 for assessing program effectiveness or making grant-
24 ee funding determinations at the national, state, or
25 local level.

1 “(8) SUBMISSION OF INTERIM EVALUATION RE-
2 PORTS.—The organization shall prepare and submit
3 to the Secretary two interim reports on the research.
4 The first interim report shall describe the design of
5 the research, and the rationale for the design, in-
6 cluding a description of how potential sources of var-
7 iation in impact of Even Start programs have been
8 considered in designing the research. The second in-
9 terim report shall describe the status of the research
10 and preliminary findings of the research, as appro-
11 priate.

12 “(9) SUBMISSION OF FINAL EVALUATION RE-
13 PORT.—The organization shall prepare and submit
14 to the Secretary a final report containing the find-
15 ings of the research.

16 “(10) TRANSMITTAL OF EVALUATION REPORTS
17 TO CONGRESS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 transmit, to the Committees described in sub-
20 paragraph (B)—

21 “(i) the first interim report 18
22 months after the date of the enactment of
23 this section;

1 “(ii) the second interim report three
2 years after the date of the enactment of
3 this section; and

4 “(iii) the final report five years after
5 the date of the enactment of this section.

6 “(B) COMMITTEES.—The Committees re-
7 ferred to in subparagraph (A) are the Com-
8 mittee on Education and Labor of the House of
9 Representatives and the Committee on Health,
10 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
11 ate.”.

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